WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. OF L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS,

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
HEADQUARTERS
801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.
FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

No. 63.

GRANITE CUTTERS' NEWS

Quincy, Mass., June 15.--The Granite Cutters' Union at Lewiston and Auburn, Me., has successfully negotiated a new agreement with contractors which increases the wage 25¢ per day, and eliminates a machine tool, the use of which is very unhealthy. The Granite Cutters' convention, recently held in this city, changed the title of their international executive officer, known as the secretary-treasurer, to international president. The duties of this officer remain practically as heretofore. James Duncan, known now as the secretary-treasurer, will be known after July 1, 1912, as international president of the Granite Cutters' Association.

PLUMBERS WIN AGAIN

Jackson, Mich., June 15.--The members of the local plumbers union in this city recently struck for 50¢ an hour, and before the day was over more than half of the master plumbers had agreed to the scale. A year ago the master plumbers increased the price charged to customers for work of a journeyman plumber from 60¢ to 75¢ an hour. The master plumbers agreed at that time to increase the pay of the journeymen, but did not keep their word, hence the strike and the victory.

CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYES

Washington, June 15.--President Taft has given assent to the committee of civil service employes to go to Chicago and appear before the resolutions committee of the Republican national convention for the purpose of advocating a plank pledging that party to reforms in the civil service. It is reported also that a committee will appear before the proper committee at the Democratic convention, to be held in Baltimore one week after the Republican convention in Chicago.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., NEWS

Providence, R. I., June 15.--The union plumbers of this city have been granted an increase in pay of 50¢ per day. The hotel waiters have also organized and applied for a charter from the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Union of Cincinnati. The new organization has over 100 charter members. A local union has also been organized of the composition roofers.

ARBITRATION BOARD SELECTED

Washington, June 15.--The board of arbitration to settle the differences between the railroads east of Chicago and their engineers, has been appointed by Chief-Justice White, Charles P. Neill, Commissioner of Labor, and Judge Knapp of the commerce court. The board consists of Oscar Straus, former secretary of commerce and labor, chairman; Dr Albert Shaw, editor of the American Review of Reviews; Otto Eidlitz, former chairman of the Building Trades Employers' Association of New York; Frederick N. Judson, lawyer of St. Louis; Dr. Charles R. Van Hise, president of the University of Wisconsin; Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; and P. H. Morrisey, president of the Employes' and Investigators' Association. The two latter were selected by the railroads and engineers respectively. The arbitration has been brought about through mediation under the Erdman act. The demands of the engineers are for a standard wage in the entire eastern territory. The firemen of these systems have also presented similar demands, but no action has yet been taken, but whatever action is taken will undoubtedly be predicted on the award of the arbitration board in the engineers' case.

NOT YET SATISFIED

Washington, June 15.--The telegraphic news coming from Los Angeles reporting instances in the Darrow trial, indicates that the legal department of the government and the attorneys prosecuting Mr. Darrow are still in search of some "pin dot" upon which to draw President Gompers into the controversy. Every opportunity has been afforded the attorney general and all his assistants to secure information at the Federation headquarters and elsewhere, and notwithstanding the fact that the department has openly exonerated the officials of the American Federation of Labor, there is still an effort being made to connect them with some circumstance which might be twisted into a semblance of connection with an unlawful act. The Federation welcomes all the probes the department desires to institute and when it gets through it will have the satisfaction of knowing that no official of the American Federation of Labor had any knowledge of any wrongful act having been committed by any one in the famous dynamiting cases.

APPEARS BEFORE COMMITTEES

Washington, June 15.--President Gompers recently appeared before the postoffice and postroads committee of the senate in advocacy of the "anti-gag" rule and eight-hour provision passed upon favorably by the house. He also appeared before the house judiciary committee advocating a favorable report upon the employers' liability and workmen's compensation bill, which has passed the senate. President Gompers also appeared before a sub-committee of the senate judiciary committee urging the subcommittee to report to the full judiciary committee the Clayton injunction limitation bill, which was passed by the house recently by a very large vote.

INDIANA MINERS RESUME WORK

Indianapolis, June 15.--The Indiana miners have accepted the agreement tentatively made at Terre Haute and work has been resumed. The question over which much dissatisfaction was aroused was the fact that the miners insisted upon a weekly pay day. In the settlement, however, this demand was withdrawn and agreements reached on all other points at issue.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST COMPENSATION LAW

Galesburg, Ill., June 15.--The Labor News of this city is authority for the statement that the compensation law which recently became effective in Illinois is developing some features destined to work an injury to those whom it was framed to protect. It is stated that the large employers of labor who elected to come under the provisions of the law, are insuring their employes and compelling them to pass a rigid examination and discharging those who are not good insurance risks; also weeding out the old men because they are not good risks and because of advanced years more liable to accident. The Labor News observes that this condition of affairs presents such a serious problem that a solution must be reached in the immediate future, else injustice be done to a large number of workmen in this state.

SENATOR SMITH CONGRATULATED

Washington, June 15.--Senator Smith of Michigan, who conducted the investigation into the Titanic disaster as the chairman of the senatorial committee having this matter in charge, has been the recipient of congratulations from the London branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of Great Britain, the action being conveyed to the Senator by letter. The substance of the action of the branch was as follows: "We congratulate Senator William Alden Smith on the courageous manner in which he conducted the searching inquiry into the deplorable loss of the Titanic."

PRINTERS ORGANIZE

Waycross, Ga., June 15.--An official of the Georgia Federation of Labor here on an organizing mission has been successful in organizing the printers of this city, and all of the printing offices have given assurance that they will sign agreements to pay the union scale and make use of the union label in the future.

BUTCHER WORKMEN WIN

Sioux City, Ia., June 15.--A strike which has been in progress against the Cudahy Packing Company of this city has been settled by granting to the men working in the packing house an increase in wages. Nearly 1,000 men were involved and the increase received is a material betterment of present conditions.

MEDIATION BILL REPORTED FAVORABLY

Washington, June 15.--The house interstate commerce committee has reported favorably the bill introduced by Congressman Lee of Pennsylvania a union blacksmith, providing mediation in coal strikes of extending the provisions of the Erdman law to include both railway employes and coal miners.

EIGHT HOUR LAW CONSTITUTIONAL

Sacramento, Cal., June 15.--The state supreme court has upheld the constitutionality of the eight-hour law for women in a case brought before that trabunal in which the proprietor of a hotel at Riverside, Cal., compelled a housemaid to work nine hours per day.

There are fifteen trade unionists in Congress. Let's double the number this fall.

OSBORNE CASE CLOSED

London, June 15.--The final payment in the litigation involving the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in the celebrated Osborne case, has been made. The total cost to the society was $57,000. It will be remembered that Osborne, a member of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, objected to the payment of funds for the purpose of securing the election of labor members to Parliament, and carried the case to the courts. The courts decided that the organizations of labor in this country had no right to divert their funds for such purpose. The Amalgamated Society defended the case, the costs amounting to the amount mentioned above.

ADOPT PENSION PLAN

Washington, June 15.--The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers at the convention recently held at Harrisburg, Pa., adopted an old age and disability pension plan. The pensions will vary from $40 to $60 per month, depending on length of service, and five years' service is required before a member may receive a pension. It is understood though, that the old age and pension plan is optional with the membership. If that be the case, it is problematical whether it will serve the purpose for which it was inaugurated.

NOVELTY LEATHER WORKERS

Washington, June 15.--In the June 1 issue of the Weekly News Letter under a Chicago date, it was reported that the "Leather Workers" have secured an agreement with their employers and all differences adjusted. The item should have read "Novelty Leather Workers". The organization known as "The Leather Workers on Horse Goods" has been on strike against the saddlery firms in Chicago for some time, but no settlement has been reached with the saddlery firms.

PEACE REIGNS WITH MINERS

Washington, June 15.--In a letter recently received from John P. White, President of the United Mine Workers of America, one paragraph says: "I have been very busy with wage scale settlements in the various parts of the country and am now in a position to state that practically all our contracts are settled and industrial peace, with increased wages and better conditions of employment were brought about without resorting to strike.

MINERS SECURE AGREEMENT

Wheeling, W. Va., June 15.--The mine workers of sub-district No. 5 after a series of conferences, have secured the best settlement they have had for years. For some time it looked as though a strike was imminent, but conferences were continued and as a result an agreement has been reached and signed and the miners will go to work under the new agreement at once.

NOMINATED FOR DELEGATE

Washington, June 15.--President Samuel Gompers, member of local Cigarmakers' union No. 144 of New York City, has been nominated without opposition for delegate to the International Cigarmakers' convention to be held in Baltimore the coming September. This means his election without contest.

STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT BILL

Boston, June 15.--The labor department bill, which has been under consideration by the state legislature, has been passed by the house and senate. It is understood that Governor Foss is favorable to the bill and therefore it will undoubtedly receive his signature and become a law. The bill provides for a commission of five, one to be an employer of labor, one a wage earner, one a physician or sanitary engineer and one woman. The commission is to have charge of industrial inspection and the enforcement of labor laws, taking over the powers now belonging to the state police and the state board of health. There is a provision in the bill allowing the board to make investigations and prosecutions, which is regarded as an exceedingly important provision.

NOW FOR LABOR DAY

Washington, June 15.--As noted in the Weekly News Letter of June 8 Labor's Memorial Sunday was more generally observed than ever before. The next day on which labor is most interested is Labor Day. The labor press indicates that the central bodies throughout the country are already inaugurating movements to make this, the Labor Day of 1912, the greatest demonstration ever made by organized labor. All central bodies are urged to begin their preparations at as early a day as possible in order that their expectations may be realized in holding a memorable Labor Day observance this year.

LONDON TYPOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION

London, June 15.--A substantial gain in membership and increase in the general and superannuation funds, together with a large reduction in hours are the features of the 125th half-yearly report of the Typographical Association. Several branches and sections have benefited by the unusual large number of movements for improved conditions which have been successfully achieved during the half year.

CEMENT WORKERS GAINING

San Francisco, June 15.--The American Brotherhood of Cement Workers reports that a new local has just been organized at Tulsa, Okla. It is further reported that conditions in the cement industry are rapidly improving and that most of the men engaged in this industry are steadily employed. The American Brotherhood has just affiliated with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

WOMEN SECURE MORE PAY

Henderson, Mass., June 15.--The women employed in the paper mill in this city recently went on strike for more pay. A few days later the company acceded to the demand of the women and granted 25¢ per day advance and all returned to work.

GERMAN PRINTERS GET RAISE

Cleveland, O., June 15.--Typographia No. 6 of this city has secured an increase in its wage scale of $2 per week, to take effect on June 15, for a period of one year. The advance was secured without friction.

TO PROHIBIT FRAUD UPON PUBLIC

Washington, June 15.--Congressman Campbell of Kansas has introduced a bill in the house, making it unlawful for any person, firm, company or corporation to place upon the market in interstate or foreign commerce any product or products of manufacture, assembled and ready to use, without printing, embossing or stenciling the name and address of the manufacturer upon such article or commodity, providing that if it is impracticable to place such name and address on the article, it shall be placed upon the label or package containing it. The penalty for violation is a fine not exceeding $1,000, or imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months. Congressman Campbell claims that the effect of this bill will be to abolish the sweatshop, to stop the sale of prison made goods in competition with the products of honest industry and also aid in promoting health by preventing wearing apparel, food products, tobacco and cigars from being made under unsanitary and diseased conditions of the sweatshop.

IMPORTANT BILL PASSED

Washington, June 15.--The senate has concurred in a bill recently passed by the house, with a slight amendment, appropriating $300,000 for the purpose of equipping all army transports with life-boats and rafts, including such number of steel self-righting, self-baling motor life-boats for each vessel as the secretary of war may deem it necessary to accommodate every person for whom transportation facilities are now provided, and the crew of said transports. This measure is in conformity with the policy recently adopted to equip all government vessels with adequate life-saving apparatus.

TITANIC WAITERS DROWN LIKE RATS

Washington, June 15.-- The evidence being produced before the British Titanic investigation is bringing to light many sensational instances. One of the waiters aboard the ship testified that upon being awakened by the shock when the ship struck the iceberg he was informed there was no danger. It was also further brought out that the waiters were not permitted to make any effort to save themselves, being herded in the third class deck. In the confusion, however, which resulted, some of the waiters saved themselves.

CONVENTION IN CHICAGO NEXT YEAR

Washington, June 15.--The convention of the Factory Inspectors which closed its session recently in this city, voted to hold its annual convention next year in Chicago. John Whalen of New York was elected president; A. L. Garret, Austin, Texas, first vice-president; Robert Hungerford, Ont., Can., second vice-president; O. P. Hoff, Oregon, third vice-president; George Kennedy, Maryland, fourth vice-president; W. W. Williams, St. Louis, secretary-treasurer.

ORGANIZED DIAMOND WORKERS

Washington, June 15.--It is reported in the Daily Consular and Trade Reports that the number of organized workmen in the diamond trade at Amsterdam, Holland, is now about 10,000, with a considerable number of unorganized workmen. It is stated that over 1,000 apprentices will be admitted during 1912, the greater portion being the progeny of the diamond workers.

A PHONY LEAGUE

Washington, June 15.--There is being distributed a circular, purporting to be issued by the "Eight Hour League of America", with offices at 252 W. 37th Street, New York, which, so far as can be learned, has no legitimate existence. The circular contains the name of George F. Goodbody, secretary. Mr. Goodbody was interviewed in New York and stated over his signature as follows: " I am in no manner connected with the Eight Hour League and never was. My name was placed on the literature of that so-called union without my consent." Undoubtedly it is one of the various political schemes hatched in the brain of some man who desired to gain favorable recognition in a political manner. The apparent object of the circular is to impress national politicians that the officers of this so-called League are factors in the labor world. The investigation just made indicates that the organization has no standing or influence.

GLAZIERS' UNION WINS

Portland, Ore.--June 15.--After a strike lasting 10 days the members of the local Glaziers' union have returned to work, having secured the concessions asked from their employers when the st ike was inaugurated. The wage scale now in effect for journeymen glaziers and cutters is $3.50 per day and plate glass packers, $3.00. The members of the local union of Amalgamated Glass Workers also made common cause with the glaziers and they too, have participated in an increase in wages.

STATE LABOR OFFICIALS CONFERENCE

Washington, June 15.--The twentieth annual convention of the officials of bureau of labor, factory inspectors and industrial commissions held a three days' session recently in this city. The United States Commissioner of Labor, Charles P. Neill, was in attendance as well as Dr. John B. Andrews of New York, Secretary of the American Association for Labor Legislation, together, of course, with many other prominent labor officials throughout the United States.

J. HAVELOCK WILSON

Washington, June 15.--J. Havelock Wilson, the famous British labor leader, is scheduled to arrive in San Francisco from Australia on June 13. After the great seamen's strike in Great Britain Mr. Wilson made a visit to Australia in search of health. The Sailors' Union of the Pacific has perfected arrangements to give the noted Britisher a warm welcome upon his arrival on the Pacific coast.

TINNERS WIN STRIKE

Omaha, June 15.--The Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers who have been on strike for over four weeks for a raise in wages have been successful. These mechanics have secured an increase of 2½¢ per hour and have returned to work.

AMALGAMATED GLASS WORKERS

Omaha, June 15.--The Amalgamated Glass Workers have just been successful in organizing a local union in this city.

RAILWAY MAIL ASSOCIATION

Washington, June 15.--The annual convention of the Railway Mail Association was recently held in New Orleans, La. This association, in large part, is under the domination and control of the postoffice department, and practically all of its activities are stamped with the impress of departmental officialdom. To show how completely in control the department is of this organization, one instance will suffice. Section 6 of the postoffice appropriation bill carries a provision, among other things, abolishing the "gag rule", instituted by executive orders of Ex-President Roosevelt and strengthened by President Taft. A motion was made at the recent convention of the Railway Mail Association to endorse this section of the bill, but the convention, by a large vote, tabled the motion, thus practically endorsing the "gag rule" now in force.

BROTHERHOOD OF CARMEN NEWS

Kansas City, Mo., June 15.--The members of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen on the N. O. M. & C. Railroad at Mobile, Ala., have been successful in securing a new schedule, with an increase in wages. A new lodge has also been organized at Gladstone, Mich. Indications point to a large increase in membership in a number of the principal cities in the country in the near future.

FACTORY INSPECTORS MEETING

Washington, June 15.--The 26th annual convention of the International Association of Factory Inspectors was held recently. At the opening session President Taft and President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor both delivered addresses. A general discussion on matters looking to the enforcement of inspection laws was entered into and many suggestions made for improvements in existing statutes.

SECURE AGREEMENT

Chicago, June 15.--The International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths reports that that organization has secured an agreement with the Buffalo Dredging Company for another year, thus securing, together with other agreements, all the waterfront work in Buffalo and vicinity. There has also been two charters issued by this organization recently, one at Hinton and Elkins, W. Va.

PRESSMEN WIN STRIKE

Danville, Ill., June 15.--The pressmen of this city have been on strike nearly a month against the Illinois Printing Company for an eight-hour day. A few days ago the organization and the printing company made a settlement of their differences and the pressmen have returned to work with an agreement which accords them the demands which they went on strike for.

STRUCTURAL IRON WORKERS

Detroit, June 15.--The local union of Structural Iron Workers has secured an increase from 50¢ to 60¢ per hour, the advance scale taking effect from May 1.

REYNOLDS' VIEW

Washington, June 15.--Reynolds' Newpaper, published in London, in referring to the report recently made by Sir Edward Clarke on the London dock strike, makes this editorial comment: "Sir Edward Clarke's report on the London dock strike is substantially a vindication of the men's action. There were seven points in dispute. In two of these Sir Edward finds the men were in the wrong, but on five of them he holds that they have made out their case. The masters stand convicted of breaking agreements in the most cynical fashion, and even the 'Times' is constrained to rebuke them."

A PLUCKY FIGHT

Kalamazoo, Mich., June 15.--About a year ago the corset workers in this city organized a union and endeavored peaceably to secure a re-adjustment of conditions, with an increase in pay. The management of the corset company immediately commenced the usual tactics with a view of destroying the organization. Since the beginning of the contest the girls who work in the factory have been subjected to many indignities by not only the scurts, but also men employed to harass the strikers. It is stated that the strikers are as determined to win the fight a year after the contest was begun as they were when they first left the employ of the corset company.

GRANITE CUTTERS SUCCESSFUL

Worcester, June 15.--After a five weeks strike the Granite Cutters' union has been victorious in its efforts to secure shorter hours and an increase in wages. On May 1 about 150 granite cutters struck for an increase from $3.50 to $4.00 per day and the 44-hour week. This was to conform to legislation passed at the recent convention of the International Association of Granite Cutters, which makes it obligatory for all members to secure the universal rate of 50¢ an hour before June 1, 1917.

HOD CARRIERS ON STRIKE

Scranton, Pa., June 15.--Nearly 400 hod carriers are on strike in this city. The men are seeking a flat rate of 55¢ an hour for work done above the cellar, with a scale of 25¢ per hour below the first floor. The highest rate seems sufficiently low for any man to labor at that character of work. By right, they should receive it without a contest.

LOCK OUT SETTLED

Mankato, Minn., June 15.--The plumbers of this city, who have been locked out for sometime, have finally reached an agreement with their employers. The new agreement calls for the union shop and reduces the hours of labor from 10 to 9.

CARPENTER MOVEMENTS

Indianapolis, June 15.--The local union of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters at Madison, Wis., reports an increase in wages of 2½¢ per hour, which went into effect on June 1, making the minimum wage in that city 40¢ per hour.

ANOTHER STRIKE WON

Holyoke, Mass., June 15.--The strike in the ragroom of the Strathmore Paper Company at Agawam has been settled and the women have returned to work. The strikers secured a flat rate of 25¢ a hundred pounds of rags and $8 a week to day hands, a substantial increase. The women are partially organized and are holding meetings regularly.

CONGRESS NOT TO ADJOURN

Washington, June 15.--Up to the first of June it was generally believed that congress would adjourn by June 15, but another turn in events has taken place and it is improbable that congress will now adjourn before the first of August, and it would not be surprising if it continued beyond that date.

ENDORSES WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

Washington, June 15.--A resolution was adopted by the International Association of Factory Inspectors, recently in session in this city endorsing the federal workingmen's compensation act, which has been passed by the senate and is now before the judiciary committee of the house.

BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY CARMEN

Kansas City, June 15.--The Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America reports the organization of a new local lodge at Montreal, Can. and encouraging reports of the grand lodge officials in the field are to the effect that prospects for new local organizations are good.

ORGANIZING BLACKSMITHS

Washington, June 15.--Organizer George A. Nolte of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen has just reported that he has organized a good size blacksmiths' lodge at Hagerstown, Md. He also reports that he has three carmen's lodges under way also in that state at the present time.

INCREASE OF UNION LABEL BAKERIES

Pittsburgh, June 15.--Six bakeries have been added to those employing union bakery workers in the Pittsburgh district, and an increase in wages has been obtained. The new wage scale gives foremen a minimum of $18. per week, second men $16, bench hand $15, helper $13.

GRANTED HALF HOLIDAY

Wheeling, W. Va., June 15.--The Electrical Workers of this city have been granted the Saturday half holiday voluntarily by their employers. There has been no change in the wage rate, the men receiving the same wage for 44 hours, as formerly for 48 hours per week.

PEPPER BILL REPORTED

Washington, June 15.--Chairman W. B. Wilson of the House Labor Committee, has been authorized to report favorably the Pepper Bill. This bill provides penalties for methods usually employed in carrying out what is known as the "Taylor System".